

REMARKS

The Examiner's consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks is greatly appreciated. Claims 1-57 are pending in the application. Claims 58-67 have been withdrawn from further consideration. In the Office Action mailed July 12, 2004 the Examiner objected to Claims 30 and 31 as improper dependent claims. Although applicants respectfully disagree with the objection, applicants have canceled Claims 30 and 31. The Office Action further rejected Claims 1-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069156 (Adam et al.).

It is believed that this amendment to the first Office Action responds to each and every basis of rejection stated in the Office Action. It is therefore believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Detailed responses to the Examiner's reasons for rejection are set forth below.

In its entirety, independent Claim 1 recites:

1. A method for facilitating transactions between one or more buyers and sellers, the method comprising:
 - obtaining a buyer transaction request, the transaction request including one or more buyer criteria;
 - identifying a set of sellers corresponding to the at least one buyer criteria;
 - transmitting the set of sellers corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - obtaining a selection of at least one seller corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - processing the negotiation of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller corresponding to the buyer criteria;
 - obtaining a confirmation of the completion of a transaction between the buyer and the selected seller; and
 - generating transaction records associated with the completed transaction.

The Office Action asserts that Adam et al. teaches all the limitations recited with regard to Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Adam et al. fails to teach or suggest every limitation recited with regard to Claim 1. Specifically, Adam et al. fails to teach or suggest

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendment and response is submitted as a full and complete response to the first official Office Action mailed July 12, 2004. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by the Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 206.695.1728.

Respectfully submitted,

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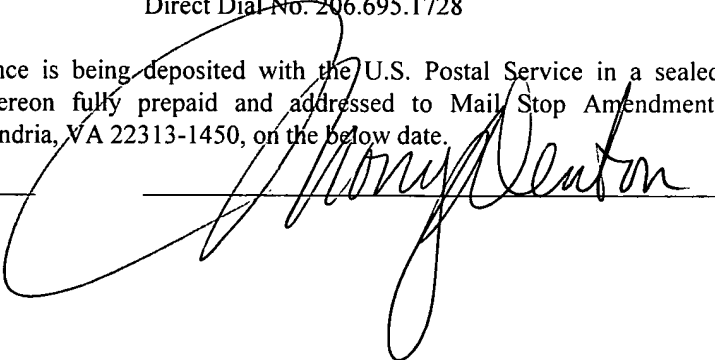


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

January 12, 2005



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